

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

September 25, 2013

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 10148  
Washington, D.C. 20410-1000

Dear Secretary Donovan:

We write to urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allocate Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to help Colorado rebuild and recover from the unprecedented and deadly flooding that devastated over a dozen counties along Colorado's Front Range. We understand HUD currently has over \$9 billion in unallocated CDBG-DR funds. In the wake of last week's catastrophic disaster, our state needs HUD to move expeditiously to make funding available to Coloradans.

As you know, historic levels of rain fell on Colorado during the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>. These rains resulted in flooding, destruction, and tragedy on an unprecedented scale. At least eight Coloradans have died. Over 18,000 people were evacuated, many by helicopter, in the largest aerial rescue operation for a U.S. disaster since Hurricane Katrina.

The scale of damage is overwhelming. Based on the latest estimates, over 17,000 homes and other structures were seriously damaged, and thousands more were completely destroyed. Over 10,000 Coloradans have already registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance and we expect thousands more to apply in the weeks to come. Emergency officials are still working to measure the magnitude of this disaster.

Governor Hickenlooper determined these floods are of such severity and magnitude that additional supplementary federal assistance is necessary to help address needs not being covered by existing resources. President Obama agreed, and on September 14, he declared a major disaster in Colorado, activating individual assistance and public assistance to support Colorado families and communities.

Although FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) are making assistance available to families whose homes and properties have been destroyed, badly damaged or rendered inaccessible, we know these resources, while critical to the recovery effort, will not completely fill the void. Thousands of Colorado homeowners will need more help. Because so many of the homes impacted by the flooding are not in a high-risk flood area, we anticipate that a large percentage of the homeowners affected do not have flood insurance. Because regular home-insurance policies typically do not cover flood damage, many homeowners will have limited non-governmental options available to finance repair and replacement costs.

Given this background, HUD's CDBG-DR funds can play a critical role, helping to supplement the long recovery and rebuilding process that hundreds of communities are just beginning. We ask you to work with Governor Hickenlooper and the affected communities, and act as quickly as possible to begin allocating CDBG-DR funding to Colorado.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request.

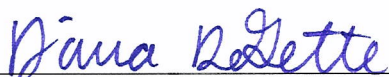
Sincerely,



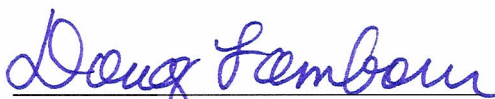
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



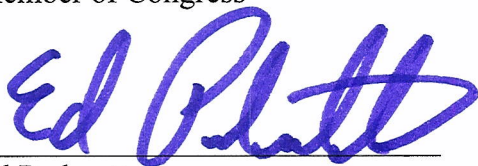
Mark Udall  
United States Senator



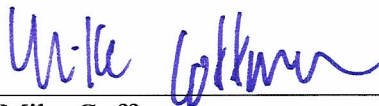
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



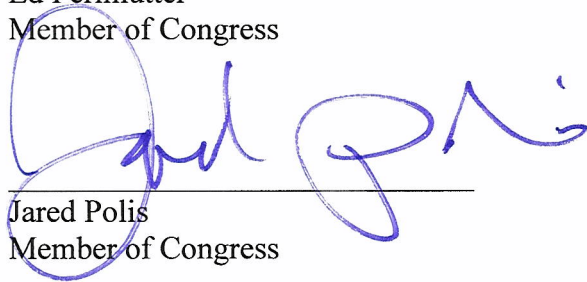
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



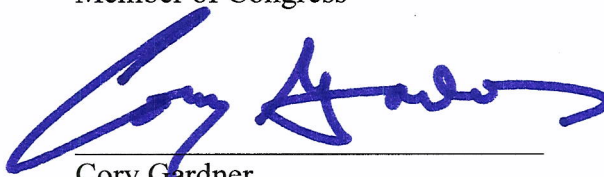
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress




Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress